



Durham

Environmental Affairs Board

M i n u t e s

September 29, 2004 ■ 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room A
Ground Floor, City Hall

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Dock Terrell, Howard Glasgow, Kathi Beratan, Sharon Beard, Ahrash Bissell, Matthew Greenwolfe, Will Anderson, Judy Kincaid, and Rick Crume.

Members Absent: Excused: Bill Harnett and Darryl Roberts Unexcused: N/A

Guests Present:

Staff Present: Keith Luck, Vicki Westbrook, and Kathleen Snyder

Minutes:

Chairman Sharon Beard called meeting to order. Rick Crume motioned to approve the minutes of August 17, 2004, with the removal of bracketed text at bottom of page 2, point 4. Judy Kincaid seconded the motion, which was approved 7 - 0.

Announcements

Kathleen Snyder passed out an article provided by County Commissioner Ellen Reckhow regarding the trends and issues of environmental planning.

Old Business

Felix Nwoko of the City of Durham Transportation Department appeared before the Board. He announced that he had not completed the revisions to the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Local Action Plan (GGAP), but that he would email it out along with a Scope of Work attached. Mr. Nwoko asked how the Board thought that the GGAP working group proposed in the RFQ should be structured. The function of the working group would be to provide guidance to the consultant and review progress of the GGAP implementation. The Board and Mr. Nwoko agreed that having a member of Durham City Council and the Durham County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) would be beneficial, especially for garnering budgetary support for implementing the GGAP. All agreed that City and County staff needed to sit on the working group, and that some representatives from the business community should also be include the GGAP working group, e.g. someone from Duke Power. Judy Kincaid and Rick Crume volunteered to be representatives for the EAB in the working group. Ms. Beard said that the group should be limited to 5-8 people. Mr. Nwoko and the Board briefly discussed the target year of 2030 vs. a target year of 2025 and the base year of

2002 vs. a base year of 2003. Ms. Beard asked if her letter of support for the GGAP was acceptable and the Board agreed that it was.

The Board then continued the discussion of the air quality initiative. Bill Harnett's points were not completed. Ms. Beard suggested that the air quality initiative discussion be postponed until Mr. Harnett's comments were completed and the matrix was completed. Ms. Snyder said that the matrix was as complete as it was going to be and that she would email it to the members. There was a brief, tangential discussion of the use of biodiesel. Matthew Greenwolfe said that any air initiative needs to include both long and short term strategies. Ms. Kincaid noted that the Board's GGAP work fits into the work on air quality and should be an important component of any air quality initiative. Ms. Snyder commented on the importance of getting the City jointly engaged with the County on the issue of air quality initiatives. The Board mentioned some other groups that should be involved in the development of air quality initiatives, i.e. People's Alliance, American Lung Association, DATA/TTA, Triangle J, Triangle Clean Cities Initiative, Homebuilder's Association of Durham and Orange Counties, and Chamber of Commerce.

The Board continued its discussion of excused absences, voting 9-0 to propose to the City Council and County Commissioners the addition of the following definition of excused absence to Section 5.8 of the EAB Rules of Procedures: *An excused absence shall be any absence due to illness, medical appointment, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday or service that is recognized as such by all members of the faith, subpoena by a law enforcement agency, mandatory court appearance, or travel necessitated by one's employment.*

The Board then examined the attendance records of its members for the past and current fiscal years. The Board found that Darryl Roberts had exceeded the number of absences under the current Rules of Procedure. In the 2003 – 2004 fiscal year, Mr. Roberts has six absences, of which five are unexcused absences. The Board stated that a memo informing the City Council of Mr. Roberts attendance record should been written.

The Board turned its discussion to the Results Based Accountability Initiative. The City and County had asked the EAB in the spring to sponsor the Healthy Environment of Durham group within the initiative. The municipalities would like the EAB to co-chair the group, which would identify the healthy environment indicators, the sources of information for tracking the identified indicators, and suggestions for actions that the municipalities might take to improve the environment. Kathi Beratan agreed to take the lead on this. Judy Kincaid and Howard Glasgow also expressed an interest in participating. Ms. Snyder will provide a background document created by a smaller work group as a stepping off point the environment committee's work. Dock Terrell noted the importance of having a public affairs person involved to ensure that people are reached in the best way.

New Business

The Board discussed how it would respond to solicitations for participation in environmental discussions, projects, and studies from outside groups. The Board agreed that it should treat each solicitation independently on an ad hoc basis. Chairman Beard agreed to continue to advise the Board of these solicitations via email. Mr. Terrell agreed to be the liaison to the EAB on Dr.

Anderson's project at NCCU having to do with exposure to residents near junkyards. Ms. Beard had previously volunteered to work with them on an environmental justice/brownfields project. The People's Alliance wants an EAB member to attend its environmental networking meeting on November 11, 2003. This meeting is planned as an initial meeting that would result in a broader meeting in March 2005 that would seek to develop a set of issues and positions to present to the elected officials. Ms. Kincaid and Mr. Bissell expressed an interest in attending. Mr. Bissell and Mr. Greenwolfe both emphasized that an important function of the EAB should be to support local environmental groups before the City and County.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. upon a 9-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Will Anderson, Secretary
October 21, 2004